

Robert Armstrong to Andrew Jackson, April 25, 1836, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COLONEL ROBERT ARMSTRONG TO JACKSON.

Nashville, April 25, 1836.

Dear Genl. Your son will leave here this evening and perhaps reach you before this, we have made a statement of the amt paid On the House and the Balance which will [be] due and to be paid by 1 June, or before as the House is now nearly compleated. at bottom I give you a statement of the carpenters Bill, the amt paid him and *about* the amt which will be due. I also give you the Estimate of the plastering with the amt. paid and the amt. due. also the Painters Bill, cost of paints and etc. the cost of the Bricklaying Bill was paid by Andrew and contracted for. Austin has left and I was forced before your son arrived to employ a Bricklayer to finish the Kitchen and Wall which I have paid and indorsed. I wrote you that the workmen would want some additional payments by I. of May. Andrew was about to start and I concluded that we had better give them The money and then make an Estimate for what you would have to pay, say I. June.

I therefore Drew On you in favour of Mr Crockett for 1800 Dollars which I paid Out in the following way,

Draft in favour of Mr Crockett \$1800.

Paid Mess. Reiff and Hume \$1000.00

Paid Mr Higgins Plastering 500.00

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Paid Horn and Wells 188.00

Paid for Two Locks 12.00

Paid Bricklayer 35.00

\$ 1735.00 1735.00

in my Hands, \$65.00

I will send you Mess. Reiff and Hume's Receipt as soon as he comes down, I expect him tomorrow. Andrew understands all the difficulties of getting hands and of Keeping them, The extream high prices now given etc. In truth the House could not now be built for 50 pCent added, workmen are not to be had, all gone and going to Mississippi and Lousi.

The House is well built and convenient, and in appearance greatly improved upon the old One¹ but I hope and Trust we shall have The pleasure of seeing you this summer and have your Opinion of it.

¹ The first house is usually described as very plain. A picture of it is in Bassett's *Jackson*, vol. I., opposite p. 44.

Your friend Truly